

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a process of hydrodealkylation of alkylaromatics in the presence of water. The closest prior art of record - Drake et al (6,063,975) - disclose a process as discussed in the previous Office action. However, Drake does not disclose the criticality of the presence of water in the reaction. As shown in the specification, the presence of water in the reaction increases the hydrodealkylation activity significantly. As result, a higher selectivity of benzene and toluene with a higher ratio of benzene and toluene is obtained (see tables 2 and 3).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THUAN D. DANG whose telephone number is (571)272-1445. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/THUAN D DANG/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797